



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

21 February 2021

First Sunday in Lent - Primer Domingo de Cuaresma

Announcements

There is no video Mass for 21 February. For the time being, video Masses will be posted for the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. I will continue to post the Gospel and Homily each week; you may find these through the St. Paul website at <https://spcath.org>.

I will deliver your substitute Holy Communion pods during the first week of March.

With great hope we can look forward to the population being vaccinated. This, combined with the continued wearing of face coverings and standing or sitting apart, will allow us to return to our church as it should be.

Florida and Hernando County are not doing a great job of managing this crisis. Please continue to protect yourselves. Stay home as much as possible and wear your face coverings when you're out.

With great faith in our Lord,
Fr. Michael Clancy

I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- This is the first Sunday of Lent. We continue without in-person Mass at our church. Hernando County continues to be a place of hazard by not requiring the use of facemasks. The new virulent strains of virus might come our way. Until this slows down I will not ask or expect you to attend Mass. Let's be more sure of our environment before we assemble as a family.

- Let's remember those we love in prayers for this week...

- Fr. Bob Swick is in the hospital with some complications with his heart and blood. It will be several days for tests to be completed. We pray for him.

- Maria and Roberto's granddaughter Jessie, has contracted Covid. We pray for her.

- Janice will have a surgical procedure Monday. We pray for her.

- Chuck will have a surgical procedure Monday. We pray for him.

- Happy Birthday to Nancy on Monday.

- I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead.

Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."



Homily

Why does God foresee and allow the devil to tempt us? God is all powerful, right? I think that God is so powerful that he could smash the devil and there would be no more temptation of anyone here on earth. Imagine no crime, no fighting, government that actually works. I mean all governments; any country you choose.

Some theologies are that God does not eliminate the devil. He can control the devil; he uses him; uses him to tempt us and to show us a darker world that we are supposed to realize as the wrong choice. It keeps us humble and builds strength in our devotion and love of God. Temptations spawned by Satan are part of God's plan for us.

Sometimes Gospels we read raise as many questions as they give us examples of wisdom. In the Gospel today, we read of the temptations of Jesus. "the angels waited on him..." meaning they took care of him, says the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit led him. In religion, the Holy Spirit is either very complicated or very simple to understand. We can discuss this for hours, but I'll leave that lesson for another day... but I will describe an example.

That beautiful watch sitting on the counter in the store...

I love that watch but I can't afford it...

No one is looking...

It will fit into this bag I have...

STOP. This is not me. "Get away, Satan!"

God allows the devil to tempt us so we can see the real us. That exposes things inside you that you usually suppress, knowing the act to be wrong. It reminds you of strength you have when resisting the opportunity to sin. But, and wonderfully so, it reminds you of your faith in God to stay on the path. All of those things, in a moment of time:



Temptation...

Faith...

Resistance...

Back on the path...

Points for me, high five, big smile.

It would be great if all temptations ended like that. But we are human, we have sinned and will continue to do so.

Temptation, but not acting on the temptation, is like a spiritual vitamin. Take your vitamin, be strong and healthy. Conversely, to embrace temptation is to be weak and sickly because you are being a friend to the devil.

Now... this is a lesson, not a condemnation of you for your sins. I praise you for your success at resisting temptation. Today, learn the example of Jesus and use it in your life.

The temptations of Christ are not so well explained in the book of Mark, but in Luke and Matthew, Jesus clearly won the contest with the devil.

Satan said - command that these stones become loaves of bread...

Jesus said - One does not live on bread alone.

Satan said - If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here...

Jesus said - You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.

Satan said - See all these kingdoms I shall give to you if you serve me...

Jesus said - you shall worship The Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.

Jesus became stronger with each temptation. We do too. Vitamins, remember?

Then... realizing that we gain strength by passing by the temptation, we recognize that we are dependent on God for that strength.

These events occurred early in the ministry of Christ. What a power of faith he would grow to, with this attempt by Satan to tempt him. He would have the strength of God and heaven to continue to his destiny.

Learn from the strength and devotion of Jesus Christ. High five, smile.

God bless you all this day.



Evangelio Marcos 1:9-15

Por aquellos días, Jesús salió de Nazaret, que está en la región de Galilea, y Juan lo bautizó en el Jordán. En el momento de salir del agua, Jesús vio que el cielo se abría y que el Espíritu bajaba sobre él como una paloma. Y se oyó una voz del cielo, que decía: «Tú eres mi Hijo amado, a quien he elegido.»

Después de esto, el Espíritu llevó a Jesús al desierto. Allí estuvo cuarenta días, viviendo entre las fieras y siendo puesto a prueba por Satanás; y los ángeles le servían.

Después que metieron a Juan en la cárcel, Jesús fue a Galilea a anunciar las buenas noticias de parte de Dios. Decía: «Ya se cumplió el plazo señalado, y el reino de Dios está cerca. Vuélvanse a Dios y acepten con fe sus buenas noticias.»



Homilía

¿Por qué Dios prevé y permite que el diablo nos tiente? Dios es todopoderoso, ¿verdad? Creo que Dios es tan poderoso que podría aplastar al diablo y no habría más tentación de nadie aquí en la tierra. Imagínese ningún crimen, ninguna lucha, un gobierno que realmente funciona. Me refiero a todos los gobiernos; cualquier país que elija.

Algunas teologías son que Dios no elimina al diablo. Puede controlar al diablo; lo usa; lo usa para tentarnos y mostrarnos un mundo más oscuro que se supone que debemos darnos cuenta de que es la elección incorrecta. Nos mantiene humildes y fortalece nuestra devoción y amor por Dios. Las tentaciones generadas por Satanás son parte del plan de Dios para nosotros.

A veces, los evangelios que leemos plantean tantas preguntas como ejemplos de sabiduría. En el Evangelio de hoy leemos sobre las tentaciones de Jesús. “Los ángeles lo atendieron ...” es decir, lo cuidaron, dice el Evangelio.

El Espíritu Santo lo guió. En religión, el Espíritu Santo es muy complicado o muy simple de entender. Podemos discutir esto durante horas, pero dejaré esa lección para otro día ... pero describiré un ejemplo.

Ese hermoso reloj sentado en el mostrador de la tienda ...

Me encanta ese reloj, pero no me lo puedo permitir ...

Nadie está mirando ...

Cabrá en este bolso que tengo ...

DETENER. Este no soy yo. ¡Vete, Satanás!

Dios permite que el diablo nos tiente para que podamos ver nuestro verdadero yo. Eso expone cosas dentro de ti que normalmente reprimes, sabiendo que el acto es incorrecto. Te recuerda la fuerza que tienes cuando te resistes a la oportunidad de pecar. Pero, y maravillosamente, te recuerda tu fe en Dios para permanecer en el camino. Todas esas cosas, en un momento de tiempo:

Tentación...

Fe...

Resistencia...

De vuelta en el camino ...

Puntos para mí, choca esos cinco, gran sonrisa.

Sería genial si todas las tentaciones terminaran así. Pero somos humanos, hemos pecado y seguiremos haciéndolo.

La tentación, pero no actuar sobre la tentación, es como una vitamina espiritual. Toma tu vitamina, sé fuerte y saludable. A la inversa, abrazar la tentación es ser débil y enfermizo porque eres amigo del diablo.

Ahora ... esta es una lección, no una condenación tuya por tus pecados. Te alabo por tu éxito en resistir la tentación. Hoy, aprenda el ejemplo de Jesús y úselo en su vida.

Las tentaciones de Cristo no están tan bien explicadas en el libro de Marcos, pero en Lucas y Mateo, Jesús claramente ganó el concurso con Satanás dijo: ordena que estas piedras se conviertan en panes ...

Jesús dijo: No se vive solo de pan.

Satanás dijo: Si eres el Hijo de Dios, tírate de aquí ...

Jesús dijo: No pondrás a prueba al Señor, tu Dios.

Satanás dijo: Mira todos estos reinos que te daré ...

Jesús dijo: adorarás al Señor, tu Dios, y solo a él servirás.

Jesús se hizo más fuerte con cada tentación. Nosotros también. Vitaminas, ¿recuerdas?

Entonces ... dándonos cuenta de que ganamos fuerza al pasar por alto la tentación, reconocemos que dependemos de Dios para esa fuerza.

Estos eventos ocurrieron temprano en el ministerio de Cristo. ¡Qué poder de fe llegaría a tener con este intento de Satanás de tentarlo! Tendría la fuerza de Dios y el cielo para continuar hacia su destino.

Aprenda de la fuerza y ??la devoción de Jesucristo. Choca esos cinco, sonríe.

Dios los bendiga todo este día.

